

Mississippi River

The Louisiana reach of the Mississippi River is 504 miles long and courses through 17 Louisiana parishes from East Carroll Parish at the Arkansas border to Plaquemines Parish on the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana shares approximately 200 miles of river with the state of Mississippi. The west bank of the river in Louisiana from the Arkansas border at mile 504 to Venice, Louisiana near Head of Passes is leveed and has no tributary input. However, 30 percent of the Mississippi and Red River flows are diverted for flood control to form the Atchafalaya River with the Mississippi River flows coming through specially built structures near river mile 300. Also about 500 cfs flow is diverted into Bayou Lafourche at river mile 175.5 for drinking water and other environmental purposes. The east bank of the river is leveed from the Arkansas border in Mississippi to Vicksburg and again from just north of Baton Rouge to Pointe A La Hache south of New Orleans near river mile 49. Several tributaries enter the river from Mississippi including the Yazoo, Black, Homochitto and Buffalo Rivers and Bayou Pierre and from Bayou Sara, Thompson's Creek, and Tunica and Monte Sano Bayous in Louisiana. Controlled river diversions for flood control and coastal restoration also occur south of Baton Rouge on both sides of the river. LDEQ and predecessor agencies have had monitoring stations on the Mississippi River continuously since 1966. Current and historical LDEQ water quality data for the Mississippi River and environs can be found on the Department website at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2421/Default.aspx.